

Appl. No. : 10/783,412
Filed : February 20, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8 and 15. Please cancel Claims 3 and 10.

1. (Currently Amended) A modular array arrangement for use in a screening assay comprising:

a carrier; and

at least one insert for attachment to said carrier, said at least one insert having a first connecting means arranged on ~~or formed in~~ at least one of the external wall of said at least one insert so as to extend outward therefrom, said carrier having at least one location for receiving one of said at least one insert and comprising a second connecting means, said second connecting means being arranged in, adjacent to, or formed by said at least one location, wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means have an asymmetric structure or form, said first connecting means unambiguously matching with said second connecting means, said unambiguously matching permitting ~~to align the~~ alignment of said at least one insert in a predetermined orientation in or on said carrier so as to prevent rotational movement of the at least one insert in the carrier and excluding an incorrect insertion of said at least one insert, and said insert having at least one section defined for receiving a sample, said at least one section being provided with or adapted for receiving operational means wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means is adapted to serve as a grip that extends outward from the insert a distance sufficient to permit transfer of the insert by a user or an automated machine while reducing the potential of contact by the user or the automated machine of the contents of the insert.

2. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first connecting means is essentially or partially complementary to said second connecting means.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means is adapted to serve as a grip.

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5. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said insert is releasably or non-releasably connected to said carrier upon attachment to said carrier.

6. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 1, wherein an insert is provided with one or more additional first connecting means or an insert receiving location is provided with one or more additional second connecting means.

7. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 1, said operational means being selected from the group consisting of compounds attached to the insert surface, media, reagents, solvents, catalysts, coatings, and beads.

8. (Currently Amended) A modular array arrangement for use in a screening assay comprising:

a carrier; and

at least one insert for attachment to said carrier, said at least one insert having a first connecting means arranged on ~~or formed~~ in at least one of the external walls of said at least one insert so as to extend outward therefrom, said carrier having at least one location for receiving one of said at least one insert and comprising a second connecting means, said second connecting means being arranged in, adjacent to, or formed by to said at least one location, wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means have an asymmetric structure or form, said first connecting means unambiguously matching with said second connecting means, said unambiguously matching permitting ~~to align~~ the alignment of said at least one insert in a predetermined orientation in or on said carrier such that said at least one insert is held in a fixed orientation with respect to the carrier so that rotational movement therebetween is prevented when the first and second connecting means are engaged with each other and excluding an incorrect insertion of said at least one insert, said first connecting means being a projecting element arranged on said insert, said second connecting means being adapted to receive said projecting element, and said insert having at least one section defined for receiving a sample.

9. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 8, wherein said first connecting means is essentially or partially complementary to said second connecting means.

10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 8, wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means is adapted to serve as a grip.

12. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 8, wherein said insert is releasably or non-releasably connected to said carrier upon attachment to said carrier.

13. (Original) The modular array arrangement according to claim 8, wherein an insert is provided with one or more additional first connecting means or an insert receiving location is provided with one or more additional second connecting means.

14. (Original) An insert for attachment to a carrier, said insert having first connecting means arranged on or formed in at least one of the external walls of said at least one insert, adapted to engage with second connecting means, present in a carrier having at least one location for receiving said insert, said second connecting means being arranged in, adjacent to, or formed by to said at least one location.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a modular array arrangement in a screening assay comprising the steps of:

providing a carrier; and

providing one or more inserts for attachment to said carrier, said at least one insert having a first connecting means arranged on ~~or formed~~ in at least one of the external walls of said at least one insert so as to extend outward therefrom, said insert having at least one section defined for receiving a sample, said at least one section being provided with or adapted for receiving operational means, and said carrier having at least one location for receiving one of said at least one insert and comprising a second connecting means, wherein said first connecting means or said second connecting means have an asymmetric structure or form, said second connecting means being arranged in, adjacent to, or formed by said at least one location, said first connecting means unambiguously matching with said second connecting means such that said at least one insert is held in a fixed orientation with respect to the carrier so that rotational movement therebetween is prevented when the first and second connecting means are engaged with each other and such that an incorrect insertion of said at least one insert is excluded.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15, said method further comprising the step of contacting said first connecting means with said second connecting means, and thereby aligning said at least one insert in a predetermined orientation in or on said carrier.